



Port Curtis Integrated Monitoring Program (PCIMP)

FAST FACTS

BACKGROUND

- PCIMP was established in 2001 with the fundamental objective to monitor the long term ecosystem health of Port Curtis.
- PCIMP is now a consortium of 17 members representing industry, government (both local and state), research institutions and other stakeholders committed to a co-operative monitoring program for assessing the ecosystem health of Port Curtis, and to ensure the environmental sustainability of the Port of Gladstone.
- PCIMP officially began monitoring operations with a pilot study in 2005 – coordinated by Dr Leonie Andersen – focusing on nine key zones in the Port Curtis region.
- The PCIMP EcoCard is also unique for being produced in a regional area and primarily funded by private industry bodies with little Government support.
- With 100% funding from members, PCIMP is a completely independent body that utilises the latest techniques and emerging technologies to assess the health of the harbour.
- Funding of approx \$750,000 is required each year to conduct and analyse the research.
- PCIMP member participation is over and above their standard operational license conditions and members contribute to the program as part of their vested interest in the ongoing health and sustainability of the Port Curtis marine environments.
- The on-going monitoring and reporting program provides invaluable information to researchers and the community. It also provides industrial operations access to an extensive range of data in and outside of their own operating areas. This is a useful tool when comparing environmental performance and developing future strategies.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

- PCIMP Monitoring focuses on two main themes: WATER QUALITY and INTERTIDAL MONITORING.
- PCIMP issued Gladstone's first ever Health Report Card (EcoCard) for the Port Curtis waterways in 2008 based on three years of monitoring in 2005-2007. Overall the EcoCard reported highly positive results in all nine zones and was a collaborative effort from a number of national research institutions.
- The latest EcoCard reports on three years of data collected from July 2008 – November 2010 and is focused on eight (8) consolidated key zones in the Port Curtis region.
- Results for the EcoCard proved similar to those of 2007 suggesting very little change had occurred over the six years of monitoring.
- Looking at the Overall Grades for each zone: (Refer EcoCard Summary)
 - › Zones 5 & 9: A+
 - › Zones 1, 4 & 7: A
 - › Zone 2 & 3: A-
 - › Zone 6: B+
- All grades are equal to or indicate only a mild degree of departure from reference conditions.
- The 2008-2010 EcoCard is not indicative of the impacts of the 'big Queensland wet' that occurred in late December 2010 and early January 2011.
- This significant research and data recorded was PRE-FLOODS of Summer 2010/2011 and provides a critical baseline/benchmark for future activity and monitoring.
- The full report outlining methodology, results and conclusions is freely available to the public on the website (www.pcimp.com.au).

MOVING FORWARD

- In September 2011 the governing structure of PCIMP changed in view of becoming an incorporated association.
- PCIMP Coordinator Dr Leonie Andersen successfully completed her role.
- PCIMP appointed independent chairperson Professor Chad Hewitt.
- PCIMP is working to review the monitoring program in response to member, stakeholder and community expectations.



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FAST FACTS (CONT.)

PCIMP RESEARCH TEAM

Dr. Leonie Andersen	Director	Vision Environment (QLD)
Dr. Felicity Melville	Director	Vision Environment (QLD)
Dr. Michael Rasheed	Principle Scientist	Fisheries Queensland (DEEDI)
Mrs Katie Chartrand	Fisheries Biologist	Fisheries Queensland (DEEDI)
Karen Danaher	Principle	Danaher Consulting
Dr. Andrew Storey	Associate Professor (Adjunct)	University of Western Australia
Peter Teasdale	Associate Professor	Griffith University
Larelle Fabbro	Associate Professor	CQ University
Dr. Ralph Alquezar	Senior Research Officer	CQ University

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Why is the report card only produced every three years?** To document long term changes in harbour health. If annual report cards were produced results would widely fluctuate particularly in response to climatic conditions. Having a triennial report card averages out the results to give an indication of long term trends.
- **Are other reports produced?** Apart from the report card which summarizes results, individual reports are provided over the three years to PCIMP members in order to provide data to assist members with individual industrial operations.
- **Aren't PCIMP members required to monitor the environment anyway?** PCIMP members monitor under individual licence conditions in their near field area. However the PCIMP program monitors the far field and extended receiving environment. The contribution that members provide to PCIMP monitoring is generally above and beyond what they are required to commit under their licence conditions.
- **Is the monitoring continuing?** Monitoring for a third report card began in July 2011 and is continuing. Although a review of the monitoring program is to be undertaken, PCIMP members are committed to the continuation of the successful monitoring format of the previous six years.
- **Will the report card detect impacts from dredging or other activities?** Yes. The EcoCard is designed to detect long term declines or improvements in harbour health however it is not designed to identify or pin point the causes of any detectable impacts. Individual monitoring programs are designed for that purpose.

PCIMP MEMBERS

- Boyne Smelters Ltd (BSL)
- Centre for Environmental Management
- Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB)
- Gladstone Ports Corporation (GPC)
- Gladstone Regional Council (GRC)
- NRG Gladstone Operating Service (NRG)
- ORICA Australia
- Queensland Alumina Ltd (QAL)
- Cement Australia (CA)
- Rio Tinto Aluminium - Yarwun (RTAY)
- Queensland Energy Resources Ltd (QER)
- Qld Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM)
- Central Queensland University (CQUniversity)
- Fitzroy Basin Association
- Gladstone LNG (GLNG)
- Australia Pacific LNG (APLNG)
- QGC (QCLNG)